

# CITY OF *Snohomish* FALL 2023 QUARTERLY



DISASTER  
AND

EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS

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TextMyGov uses a mobile phone's regular messaging service as a simple way for the town to interact with the public and for residents to relay information to town staff.

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*The season of storms is right around the corner!  
In this issue, learn easy ways to prepare your  
family for emergencies and find out more about  
the steps the City of Snohomish is taking to  
keep our community safe.*

## City Hall

City of Snohomish  
PO Box 1589  
116 Union Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98291-1589

Phone: 360-568-3115

### Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Monday, Friday by appt. only

Please see the City's website to  
report a concern or for additional  
information at [www.SnohomishWA.gov](http://www.SnohomishWA.gov).

## Police

230 Maple Avenue  
Snohomish, WA 98290  
Phone: 360-568-0888  
Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergencies: 425-407-3999

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Patrol deputies are on duty 24 hours  
a day and can be reached by calling 911.

## Department Contacts

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# Preparedness as a Priority

BY LINDA REDMON, MAYOR

**I**t has been a busy couple of years as City staff have been not only working to catch up on deferred maintenance, but also working to plan for what our community will look like in the coming years. A part of planning ahead that can often be overlooked by governments, organizations, and individuals is planning for an emergency. But this type of planning can make all the difference when the worst happens. I've made it a priority for the City to make sure we are ready for likely emergencies and that we are supporting the community in preparing for emergencies. To that end, the Public Safety Board is working to build neighborhood connections that can be called upon should disaster strike.

The City created an Emergency Response Task Force last year (see page 11) and is continually working with Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to make sure we have plans in place for common emergencies and for "the big one." Our goal is to ensure we can respond to community needs, protect life and property, and ensure continuity of City services and efficient community recovery.

The City has an interlocal agreement (ILA) with DEM to provide expertise in emergency planning as well as resources

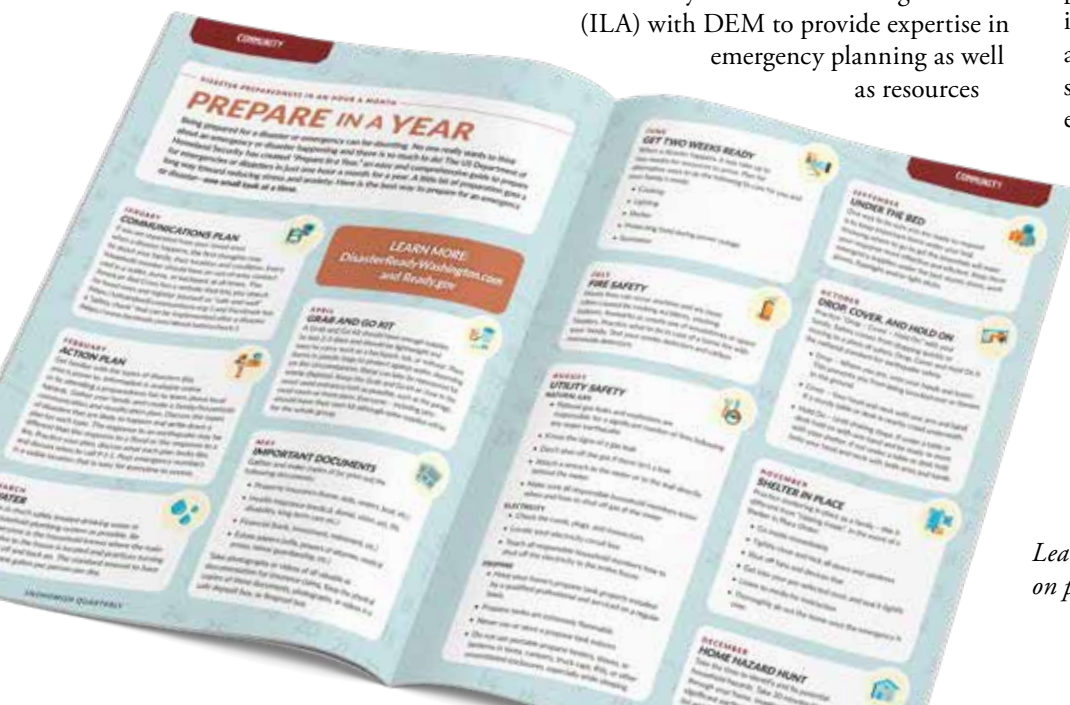


that can be put into use should we suffer a disaster. You may have seen the Disaster Preparedness Guide they put out in September with the *Everett Herald*. That publication provides a good overview of what to think about regarding

preparedness and is specific to our area. Another resource that is an approachable way to get your own household ready is "Prepare in A Year." This publication guides you in activities that take just one hour once a month and will get you fully prepared in a year. You can find more on pages 8–9. Another way to be prepared is to be aware, and you can get warnings about threats by signing up for alerts at [snocoalerts.snoco.org](http://snocoalerts.snoco.org) (see page 10). I'm excited to share this issue with you which

has more information on preparedness and resources to help you learn how you can make preparedness a priority for you and your loved ones!

**Linda Redmon, Mayor**  
[redmon@snohomishwa.gov](mailto:redmon@snohomishwa.gov)  
 360-282-3154



Learn how to "Prepare in a Year" on pages 8–9 of this issue.

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# WELCOME TO THE TEAM

## Cedric Atkins, Code Enforcement Officer

Cedric comes to the City from a variety of industry experience, including a code enforcement position he held in Florida, his home state, and a home inspector for the Housing Authority of Snohomish County. This is a new position for the City and Cedric works to investigate and enforce land use regulations within the Municipal and Zoning Codes. Cedric works closely with the Snohomish Police Department, Fire District 4, Public Works, Finance, Risk Management, the City Attorney, and the Prosecutor. You're likely to see Cedric out and about with Koi Simpson, our Building and Fire Official.



## Nathan Alanis, Snohomish Police Chief

Lt. Nathan Alanis started as the new Snohomish Police Chief on September 1. His appointment came after Police Chief Mike Martin was promoted to Captain for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.



## Siobhan Waltman, Project Coordinator

Siobhan has had a diverse and fulfilling career primarily in the public and government sectors, from her early days as a 911 Dispatcher with the Seattle Police Department to her various roles within the Washington State Department of Corrections and the Department of Defense. Siobhan will be working to improve coordination interdepartmentally between public works, engineering, and city hall.

## Katrina McNeal, Accounting Technician II

Katrina McNeal grew up in the Pacific Northwest and most recently worked at Everett Public Schools in Accounting and HR. She performs a variety of clerical and routine technical accounting in financial recordkeeping and in the areas of accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and utility billing account maintenance and processing.

## Celebrating Federal Funding for Snohomish

In August, Washington Congresswoman Suzan DelBene visited the City to commemorate the \$3 million she helped secure in federal funding for much-needed upgrades to the North Sewer Trunk Line.







## The Community Kitchen is Back!

It's a Thursday evening, and the smell of meatloaf and mashed potatoes fills the air at St John's Episcopal Church at 913 2nd Street. It's a sure sign the Community Kitchen is back providing a

hot meal and fellowship every Monday and Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Before the pandemic, the Community Kitchen served over 100 dinners on the nights they were

open. During the pandemic, St. John's continued to offer to-go meals for community members. However, after the completion of a long-anticipated renovation, the Community Kitchen is excited to get back to serving meals in person. The in-person service has only been open a few weeks and they are already serving 20-30 people a night, in addition to continuing their meal delivery and to-go service.

St. John's is just one of nine churches and service groups that rotate the cooking and serving duties. The meals are always served at St. John's and the program is supported by food donations and the community garden.

The Community Kitchen's focus is that everyone in the community should have access to a hot meal. It also serves as a place to gather with friends, old and new. Healthy communities are diverse and include everyone, regardless of their income or address. Serving the whole community, diversity allows us to truly be in community with each other. No sign up is necessary for a hot meal, just come by the Community Kitchen and enjoy.

For more information about the Community Kitchen or volunteering please contact St John's Episcopal Church at (360) 568-4622.



## Council Feature: Donna Ray

**T**his December will mark my 12th year of community service in the City of Snohomish and the end of my 4-year term on City Council. This ending is very bittersweet with many mixed feelings about leaving and many more feelings of gratitude to this wonderful community.

When I began this journey in 2010, it was in response to issues of public safety specifically in my neighborhood, Morgantown. We formed our first neighborhood watch that year and through our collective efforts turned our neighborhood around. Forming relationships with my community taught me the importance of connection. I learned that we are all better people, living in safer environments when we talk to each other and look out for one another.

In 2016 I was asked to apply for an open position on the Public Safety

Commission to help build city wide neighborhood connections and expand on the success we experienced in Morgantown. Seven years later we have a strong commission with dedicated community members carrying out this vision in concert with City staff and council. It's a beautiful thing to see.

My decision to run for council was not a clear one, but I felt there was more I could do from the legislative side of things.

Immediately upon my election we were thrown into the world of COVID-



19 and then the pain and chaos of social issues that would have a devastating effect on our country and our small town. The most valuable lesson I learned during this time was to listen. People want to be heard; most will understand the compromises required if they have

their chance to speak.

During my four years on council, I have witnessed a community that strongly disagrees on issues yet remains connected and involved. It has been my honor and privilege to serve.

*Donna Ray,  
Councilmember Position #1  
d.ray@snohomishWA.gov*

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## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN AN HOUR A MONTH

# PREPARE IN A YEAR

Being prepared for a disaster or emergency can be daunting. No one really wants to think about an emergency or disaster happening and there is so much to do! The US Department of Homeland Security has created “*Prepare in a Year*,” an easy and comprehensive guide to prepare for emergencies or disasters in just one hour a month for a year. A little bit of preparation goes a long way toward reducing stress and anxiety. Here is the best way to prepare for an emergency or disaster—one small task at a time.

**JANUARY****COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

If you are separated from your loved ones when a disaster happens, the first thoughts may be about your family, their location and condition. Every household member should have an out-of-area contact card in a wallet, purse, or backpack at all times. Facebook has a “safety check” that can be implemented after a disaster.

**FEBRUARY****ACTION PLAN**

Get familiar with the types of disasters this area is prone to. Information is available online or by attending a preparedness fair to learn about local hazards. Gather your family and create a family/household communication and reunification plan. Discuss the types of disasters that are likely to happen and write down a plan for each type. The response to an earthquake may be different than the response to a flood or the response to a fire. Practice your plan, discuss what each plan looks like, and discuss when to call 9-1-1. Post emergency numbers in a visible location that is easy for everyone to access.

**MARCH**  
**WATER**

Keep as much safely treated drinking water in the household plumbing system as possible. Be sure everyone in the household knows where the main water valve to the house is located and practices turning the water off and back on. The standard amount to have on hand is one gallon per person per day.

**LEARN MORE:**

***DisasterReadyWashington.com***  
***and Ready.gov***

**APRIL****GRAB AND GO KIT**

A Grab and Go kit should have enough supplies to last 2-3 days and should be lightweight and easy to carry such as a backpack, tub, or suitcase. Place items in plastic bags to protect against water, depending on the circumstances, these can later be repurposed for waste disposal. Keep the Grab and Go kit as close to the most used entrance/exit as possible, such as the garage, mud room or front door. Everyone – including pets – should have their own kit, although some supplies will be for the whole group.

**MAY****IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

Gather and make copies of (or print out) the following documents:

- Property insurance (home, auto, renters, boat, etc.)
- Health insurance (medical, dental, vision, pet, life, disability, long-term care, etc.)
- Financial (bank, investment, retirement, etc.)
- Estate papers (wills, powers of attorney, medical proxy, minor guardianship, etc.)

Take photographs or videos of all valuables as documentation for insurance claims. Keep physical copies of these documents, photographs, or videos in a safe deposit box, or fireproof box.





**JUNE****GET TWO WEEKS READY**

When a disaster happens, it may take up to two weeks for resources to arrive. Plan for alternative ways to do the following to care for you and your family's needs:

- Cooking
- Lighting
- Shelter
- Protecting food during power outage
- Sanitation

**JULY****FIRE SAFETY**

Home fires can occur anytime and are most often caused by cooking accidents, smoking indoors, fireworks or unsafe use of woodstoves or space heaters. Practice what to do in case of a home fire with your family. Test your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

**AUGUST****UTILITY SAFETY****NATURAL GAS**

- Natural gas leaks and explosions are responsible for a significant number of fires following any major earthquake.
- Know the signs of a gas leak
- Don't shut off the gas if there isn't a leak
- Attach a wrench to the meter or to the wall directly behind the meter.
- Make sure all responsible household members know when and how to shut off gas at the meter

**ELECTRICITY**

- Check the cords, plugs, and connectors
- Locate your electricity circuit box
- Teach all responsible household members how to shut off the electricity to the entire house

**PROPANE**

- Have your home's propane tank properly installed by a qualified professional and serviced on a regular basis.
- Propane tanks are extremely flammable.
- Never use or store a propane tank indoors
- Do not use portable propane heaters, stoves, or lanterns in tents, campers, truck caps, RVs, or other unventilated enclosures, especially while sleeping.

**SEPTEMBER****UNDER THE BED**

One way to be sure you are ready to respond is to keep important items under your bed.

Knowing where to go to get the essentials will make your response more effective and efficient. Keep these emergency supplies under the bed: sturdy shoes, work gloves, flashlight and/or light sticks.

**OCTOBER****DROP, COVER, AND HOLD ON**

Practice "Drop – Cover – Hold On" with your family. Safety comes from stopping quickly or moving to a place of safety. Drop, Cover and Hold On is the national standard for earthquake safety.

- Drop – Where you are, onto your hands and knees. This prevents you from being knocked over or thrown to the ground.
- Cover – Your head and neck with one arm and hand. If a sturdy table or desk is nearby crawl underneath.
- Hold On – Until shaking stops. If under a table or desk hold on with one hand and be ready to move with your shelter. If not under a table or desk hold onto your head and neck with both arms and hands.

**NOVEMBER****SHELTER IN PLACE**

Practice sheltering in place as a family – this is different from "staying inside". In the event of a Shelter in Place Order:

- Go inside immediately
- Tightly close and lock all doors and windows
- Shut off fans and devices that circulate air
- Get into your pre-selected room and seal it tightly
- Listen to the news for instruction
- Thoroughly air out the home once the emergency is over

**DECEMBER****HOME HAZARD HUNT**

Take the time to identify and fix potential household hazards. Take 30 minutes to walk through your home. Imagine the ground movement of a significant earthquake. Identify potential hazards, make a list and then a plan to start fixing them.



# Emergency Preparedness for Snohomish Businesses

The first step in planning for an emergency is acknowledging the need to plan for an emergency. So, congrats! You're well on your way to emergency preparedness.

According to Ready.gov, there are three things you need to do in advance of making an emergency plan:

## Business Impact Analysis

A **business impact analysis** (or BIA) helps you identify and evaluate the potential impacts of an emergency on your business. Your BIA should consider various business disruption scenarios (such as physical damage to a building) and operational or financial impacts (such as lost sales or income), as well as the timing and duration of a given emergency. You can use a questionnaire to create a report that compares the costs of a potential emergency to the costs of potential recovery strategies. Your report should also prioritize the order of events for restoring business functions.

## Risk Assessment

A **risk assessment** is necessary to identify potential hazards to your business. This should include both natural disasters (such as earthquakes, floods, or fires) and man-made disasters (such as workplace accidents or cybersecurity attacks). Understanding these hazards is key to creating mitigation strategies.

## Risk Mitigation

While not all emergencies can be prevented, there are steps you can take to protect your business through **risk mitigation**. Once you have identified 1) how different disruptions might impact your business and 2) what hazards your business is exposed to, you can prioritize risk mitigation strategies. For example, you might consider providing uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and an emergency standby generator for critical equipment to safeguard against power outages during storms. Insurance comes in different forms and is a method of financial mitigation. In fact, did you know that business interruption coverage reimburses profits and certain continuing expenses during a business shutdown?

Ready.gov features free templates, toolkits, and other resources to help your business prepare for an emergency. Learn more at: <https://www.ready.gov/business>.

## Are you signed up for SnoCoAlerts?



Snohomish County is a wonderful place to live, but like anywhere else in the world, there are always hazards and risks, both natural and manmade. From severe weather to wildfire, one way to stay safe is to receive notice of potential danger as early as possible. How will you hear about an emergency? Prepare yourself by signing up for Snohomish County Emergency Alerts and reverse 911.

Powered by Smart911, SnoCoAlerts is the county's early warning system and notification system. Users can choose what activities you want to be alerted about. A zip code and address are used to tailor alerts for where you live, and you can add more alerts or update your contact methods at any time.

**Sign up today and stay informed with SnoCo Alerts:**  
<https://snocoalerts.snoco.org>





## Staff Spotlight: Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force

**Last Fall, the City created an Emergency Preparedness and Response Task Force** to coordinate mitigation of and preparation for disasters and critical incidents. They focus on creating plans and processes for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery for employees, first responders (police, fire, etc.), City policy makers and leadership, businesses, and community members, including the underrepresented and vulnerable. The Task Force includes representatives from the City's Public Works, Engineering, Finance, and Police Departments and is overseen by the Community Engagement and Strategic Initiatives (CESI) Department.

Some key projects the Task Force has launched this past year include:

- Holding an employee Personal Preparedness Fair in May. City staff picked up a Personal Preparedness Passport at the door and visited a total of six stations, which included building a "go kit," creating a communications plan, helping to prepare family (including the four-legged, furry, and/or finned family members!), and signing up for alerts.
- Also in May, leadership from the City, Snohomish Police Department, and Snohomish Fire District 4, attended a training on Incident Command System (ICS)/Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Interface. Taught by staff from the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management, the course provided a review of ICS and EOC responsibilities and functions to help facilitate a more efficient and effective response to emergencies.
- Mapping out emergency and disaster preparedness objectives and a schedule through the end of 2025, which includes training and milestones for creating and updating plans.

**Please join the Public Safety Board for an Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety Town Hall**

**November 16, 2023**

**6 to 8 PM**

**Snohomish Carnegie Building**

The Task Force has achieved a lot in a short time, but much work remains! All this planning and work will help the City of Snohomish manage, mitigate, and recover from the impacts of emergencies and disasters for our whole community.

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# An Update on Major Projects

**H**ere's a highlight of some recently completed major projects in the City, which is one of our key responsibilities as a municipality: to care for our community assets and plan for future generations.



## First Street

City staff began work at First Street and Avenue B to investigate the subsurface below the sidewalk and street. The exciting aspect of doing construction work in a historic downtown area is that you never know what you're going to find. And historic downtown Snohomish is no exception. When the existing sidewalk and roadway were removed, they found abandoned drainpipes and tree roots, and underneath those they found...nothing...as in, a 3-foot

void. Staff had a geotechnical engineer on site through the excavation who evaluated the findings and a specialized contractor who was able to complete the necessary repairs to reinforce the sidewalk and street. Our crews installed new wiring and two new streetlamps to replace the one that was removed. A new sidewalk, curb, and gutter were poured, and the area was repaved. Additional work will continue on First Street as the City works on a master plan for this historic core of our community.



## Pilchuck Park

Beloved Pilchuck Park was closed most of the summer so the access road could be relocated away from the Pilchuck River due to riverbank erosion. During the access road closure, City Parks staff completed multiple park maintenance projects, including irrigation pump replacement, irrigation system repairs, and sports courts surface improvements. The park reopened on August 17.





### Rainier Street

Work, now complete, began in July on Rainier Street from Willow Avenue to Second Street and along Second Street from Rainier Street to Avenue A. The project consisted of replacing 1,900 feet of sewer force main pipe, installing 500 feet of new water main, and stormwater improvements.



### Averill Field Playground

City leaders, representatives from community groups, and members of the Averill family broke ground on a new inclusive and accessible playground at Averill Field in September. The new playground will be designed to be suitable for all ages and abilities and includes ADA-compliant turf surfaces, sidewalks, and seating. This is Phase 1 of several long-term projects to improve Averill Field and includes the removal of existing playground equipment and installation of new stormwater detention and treatment system. New site lighting, landscaping, irrigation, and signage will also be installed.

The field is named after Snohomish native and major league baseball hall of famer Earl Averill. He was named to six All-Star teams during his career (1929-1941) and elected to the Hall of Fame in 1975.

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.....

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# Welcoming The Snoqualmie

**On a July afternoon, they traveled by canoe, following the waterways of their ancestors.** Escorted by eagles above and deer along the riverbank, members of the Snoqualmie Tribe arrived at Pilchuck Julia Landing. They were greeted by dozens of family and tribal members, as well as representatives from the City, who were waiting when they rounded the bend in the Snohomish River. Snoqualmie Tribe leaders presented a ceremonial drum to Mayor Linda Redmon.

The tribe spent two days camping and resting up at Pilchuck Julia Landing, and traded out their river dugout canoes for an oceangoing canoe. They then continued their paddle journey to Alki Beach, joining hundreds of families from the Salish Sea for the first time since 2019.





# Community Events

## Public Safety Town Hall

- November 16
- Snohomish Carnegie Building

## Santa's Arrival and Tree Lighting

- November 25
- Snohomish Carnegie Building

## Winterfest Holiday Events

- December 8-10
- Snohomish Carnegie Building

## Downtown Wine Walk

- December 9
- Downtown Snohomish

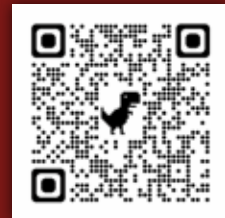
## Winter Solstice Walk

- December 21
- Kila Ha Ya Park

## Groundfrog Day

- January 27
- Snohomish Aquatic Center

For more community events, go to [www.snohomishwa.gov](http://www.snohomishwa.gov) or snap the QR code below.



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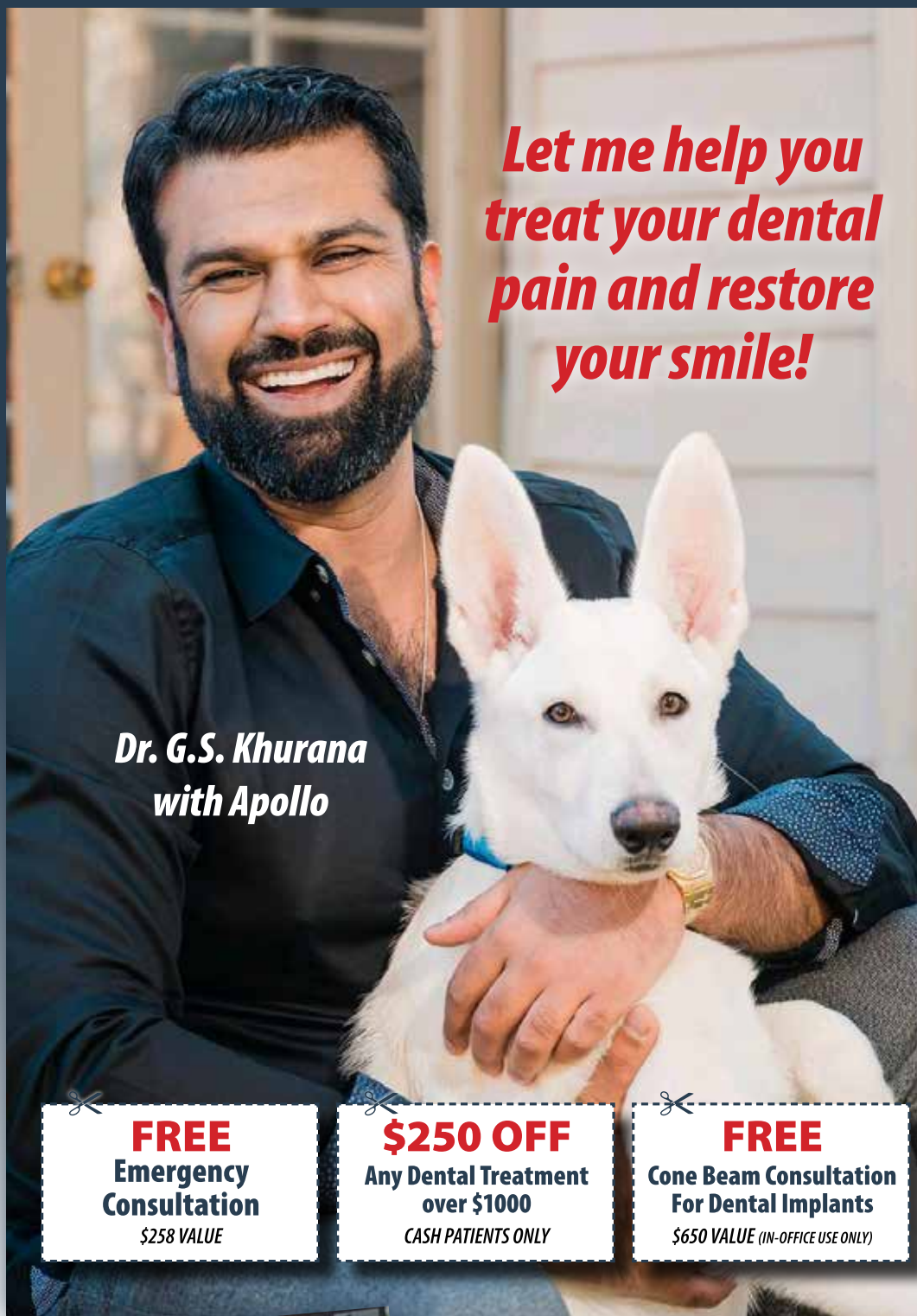
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